

APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine
Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)
 April 12, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics		
	Number of Traps	Number of Positive Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive	
				Today	Total
Alameda	951	56	0	2	65
Contra Costa	1,258	26	0	4	31
Marin	546	5	0	0	5
Sacramento	168	0	0	0	0
San Francisco	99	15	0	0	51
San Joaquin	62	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	594	2	0	0	2
Yolo	31	0	0	0	0
Total	3,709	104	0	6	154

- **Survey**
 - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Yolo counties.
 - 3,709 traps have been deployed within a 50-mile radius of the initial LBAM detection. Traps are being inspected weekly. In addition, a total of 3,525 traps have also been deployed in other counties, including Fresno (350), Kings (100), Los Angeles (793), Monterey (50), Napa (167), Orange (567), San Diego (173), San Mateo (552), Santa Barbara (100), Solano (418), Sonoma (203), Sutter (40), and Yuba (12).
 - Nurseries located within 1.5 miles from any confirmed LBAM site in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Marin counties are being proactively inspected for the presence of LBAM.
- **Identification and Diagnostics**
 - Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.

- A total of 154 moths have been confirmed to date as LBAM from traps in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin, and Santa Clara counties. All but two moths were from traps located within ten miles of the initial find. The other two moths were captured in Santa Clara County from traps located approximately 30 miles from the initial find.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
 - APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States and New Zealand to discuss and recommend LBAM survey methods, mitigation tools, and eradication strategies. An assessment team, a subset of the TWG, is on site this week to assess the situation and provide immediate technical support.
- **Incident Command**
 - Thirty-six (36) personnel are on-site (32-CDFA/Counties; 4-APHIS) and assuming various roles within the ICS structure.
- **Regulatory Actions**
 - To date, CDFA has issued a total of 25 compliance agreements to establishments (nursery stock and green waste) located within 1.5 miles of any confirmed LBAM site, requiring regular inspections of all nursery stock and report of suspect LBAM to regulatory officers.
 - All host commodities (nursery stock and green waste) must be inspected by CDFA, APHIS, or County officials and found free of LBAM before leaving quarantine areas.
- **Trace-back and Trace-forward**
 - Trace-back and trace-forward investigations to determine the source and potential distribution of LBAM continue, including the inspection of nursery establishments.
- **Treatment**
 - An inspection of one San Francisco nursery on April 2 led to the detection of three larvae on *vinca sp.* plants. Because it is difficult to determine identification at the larval stage, the plan is to rear the larvae to the adult stage. One additional larva and four pupae were also found during re-inspection on April 4 at the same facility. Post treatment (with Chlorpyrifos) inspection on April 9 resulted in no additional larvae or pupae.

Trade:

- Information was provided to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in response to its March 28 request for additional information regarding the LBAM

- situation, including U.S. quarantine plans and import requirements of host commodities originating from infested areas of the world.
- Information was also provided to Mexico's Sanidad Vegetal on April 12 in response to its inquiry regarding the current LBAM situation.

Communication and Outreach:

- Public Information Officers (PIO) from APHIS and CDFA are in the process of developing communication plans designed to inform stakeholders and cooperators of the survey objectives and response plans.
- Representatives from CDFA, APHIS, and Contra Costa Agricultural Commissioner briefed on April 5 the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors and other officials on the LBAM situation.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.
- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed that the two samples submitted were positive, and validated the results using morphological testing.
- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California.
- USDA-APHIS issued a SPRO letter on March 22, 2007, informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia.
- Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.
- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause significant damage to many different kinds of plants, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pome fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.